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LEHIGH VALLEY HOSPITAL  
DO THEY? OR DON'T THEY?  
SEE TRISH'S COLUMN ON PAGE 11.

INFORMATION  
SINCE  
1998

# VALLEY GAY PRESS

THE LEHIGH VALLEY & BERKS COUNTY'S  
GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL & TRANSGENDER  
COMMUNITY OPINION & NEWS PAPER

VOL. 10 NO. 2

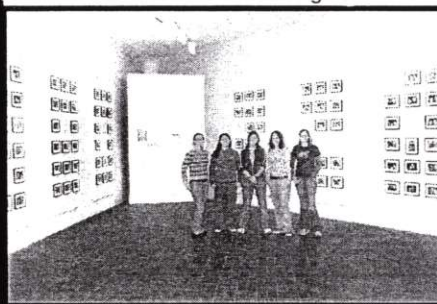
MARCH 2007



## FACT BUNCH & BINGO

CROWNE PLAZA - ALLENTOWN - MARCH 25

FACT Brunch n' Bingo's Back And Better Than Ever! Get served a heaping plate of comedy, fellowship, prizes, food, and laughter! Did we mention winning, too? Brunch, Bingo, Comedy, Live Entertainment - CarolAnn - More prizes - More Fun! Brunch starts at 10:30 AM - Bingo at 1:00 PM, Bingo \$15.00, Brunch \$20.00 For more information, please call 610-820-5519 or email info@factlv.org.



## Reading



## READING PRIDE

READ ALL ABOUT  
READING PRIDE'S  
SPECIAL FUNDRAISER

AT THE  
HOTEL STIRLING

ON MAY 20 - SEE PAGE 8

## THEATRE OUTLET I HATE HAMLET

Crowded Kitchen Players presents Paul Rudnick's hysterical comedy "I Hate Hamlet!" February 23 thru March 11. The Theatre Outlet, SilkWerks, 940 N. 4th St. Allentown. Tickets: \$16 Adults, \$12: Seniors & Students. For reservations or info: call 610.395.7176



## MCCLV FREEDOM TO MARRY RALLY AT THE LEHIGH VALLEY COURT HOUSE

14 Muhlenberg College students joined MCC members and other GLBT supporters at the MCC FTMD Lehigh County Court House Rally on Feb. 9, while 5 same-sex couples applied for marriage licenses inside. See page 7

## TAKEOVER EVENT TO BENEFIT GLV PRIDE

SEE STEVE'S ARTICLE ON PAGE 7

## GABELLINI DESIGN TO HOST ARTSHOW FUNDRAISER FOR PDN - READ ARTICLE PAGE 12

PDN WEB SITE GETS MAJOR OVERHAUL  
CHECK OUT OR UP DATE YOUR GROUP'S  
RESOURCE LISTING AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG

## GAY MEN'S CHORUS CONCERT

AT THE WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - TO BENEFIT FACT

The Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus will present a benefit concert "Unconditional Love" on behalf of FACT (Fighting AIDS Continuously Together) of the Lehigh Valley on March 24, at 8 PM at 2540 N. Center St. Bethlehem. Tickets: \$15 for Adults, \$10 for Seniors/Students. A reception with light refreshments will be held at the church after the concert. Contact LVGMC: 610-366-3320 to reserve tickets.

## THE PDN PHOTO PROJECT APPEARED AT MUHLENBERG & PPL IN FEB

Above Muhlenberg GSA Boardmembers (L to R) Emily Schweighardt, Alex Denning (GSA VP), Anna Stressenger (GSA PR Director), Kaitlin Merritt (GSA Treasurer) & Erin Madigan at the Photo Show reception at Muhlenberg on Feb. 6.

## SEE MORE PHOTO PROJECT PICTURES AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG

At left, PPL GLOW members Dan Moffitt and Russ Fernsler (GLOW Pres.) setting up the PPL exhibition.

**GLBT Infoline**  
Greater Lehigh Valley  
610-HELP-123  
(610-435-7123)

At right, people in the Photo Project hold their photos at MCCLV. The project will be on exhibition through the middle of March. See more info: page 5.



BECOME A PDN MEMBER TO RECEIVE THE VALLEY GAY PRESS IN THE MAIL, SEE PAGE 10.

CHECK OUT PA DIVERSITY NETWORK'S WEBSITE AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG



## What's That About?



Readers write or email "What's That About" editor Liz Bradbury with questions about GLBT issues.



Dear WTA, What was the new law that just went into effect about who ends up being my health care representative if I don't have a power of attorney? How does it effect me and my partner? Signed, Photo Project Participant

---Dear PPP, Now, if you are rushed to the hospital, you can designate who your health care representative (decision maker) will be by telling hospital officials when you get there. That's good, because you can make the decision yourself, and you can indicate your partner. But the law also establishes a list the hospital must follow if you are not conscious and cannot make the decision yourself and if you have not designated someone on a legal Power of Attorney.

If you are knocked out...and can't designate someone...and your partner is not carrying your power of attorney...the decisions for your care will be made by your adult child, if you don't have a kid, it will be your parent. Way down at the end of the list is "your close friend." The full description is below.

And notice that the law allows a health care representative to ask your partner for verification of his/herr authority. Which means you should be carrying the POA with you all the time. Make a card sized version and carry it in your wallet. PA Diversity Network will be arranging a workshop on these legal papers soon.

### Default priority list for health care representatives

Act 169 generally gives priority to the following classes, in the order listed:

1. Spouse and adult child who is not the child of the spouse
2. Adult child
3. Parent
4. Adult sibling
5. Adult grandchild
6. Close friend (i.e., individual who is knowledgeable of the patient's preferences and values)

**Verification of authority:** Upon assuming authority, a health care representative is required to promptly inform the other members of the patient's family who fall within any of the default classes and can be readily contacted.

A health care provider may require an individual claiming the right to act as the patient's health care representative to provide a written declaration, made under penalty of perjury, stating facts and circumstances reasonably sufficient to establish the claimed authority.

While obtaining such a declaration is not required, it generally is prudent to have the representative at least sign a document stating the representative's relationship to the patient and verifying, to the best of the representative's knowledge, that there is no other person of higher authority who is readily available and willing to act for the patient.

(Thanks to Earl Ball for additional info on this article.)

## "SEUSSICAL" AT CIVIC

The Cat is back. Civic Theatre revives last season's mainstage hit "Seussical" for young audiences, Feb. 23 - March 4. Tickets cost less for this special presentation than for the Civic mainstage: \$14 for children, students and seniors, and \$18 regular admission.

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## SCOTT SAYS

By Scott Laubner



### BRUSHES WITH FAME

I was home having dinner at a friend's house in Emmaus and she asked what my New York neighbors and my neighborhood was like. I told her there is a plaque on a building across the street that reads George Gershwin - composer and Ira Gershwin -- lyricist created many memorable works here. And last June, Lauren Bacall showed up down the street to unveil a plaque on another building that states: This site is the childhood home of Humphrey DeForest Bogart.

"No Scott," she said, "I meant what are your neighbors like who are alive?"

So here's everybody who I have come across in the big city who is still alive.

Tommy Tune moved in next door. He is very tall and his dog is so tiny, both very gay. I was riding the subway and I swear I saw Charles Busch of "Die Mommy Die," sitting down in the same car. Because I don't like to harass stars when I see them, I just bowed toward him. He smiled, so either Charles Busch or somebody who looks completely like him got acknowledged.

I was down on Hudson Street for dinner and one table away was John Cameron Mitchell of "Hedwig and the Angry Inch" and "Shortbus". My dining companion told him, "I love everything you've done, EVERYTHING!" When we sat down at our table I said, "I hope he doesn't think you're including every time he goes poo."

And I saw Kate Mulgrew having lunch on 96th Street.

One name I want to acquaint you with is Christine Quinn. Ms. Quinn has served six years on New York's City Council. She is the speaker of City Council which makes her the second most powerful person in the city after Mayor Bloomberg. I really admire her because she is an out and proud lesbian and although I haven't met her, which makes it a bit of a stretch to include her in this column, she is one to watch for all New York mayoral race enthusiasts.

But I did really see Rosie O'Donnell's brother, Daniel, at my neighborhood gay bar on Amsterdam Avenue. Mr. O'Donnell represents the Upper West Side of Manhattan in the New York State Assembly and, like his sister, he is openly gay.

Stay warm everybody!

## FIGHTING AIDS CONTINUOUSLY TOGETHER (FACT) LEHIGH VALLEY CALENDAR OF EVENTS: 2007

**MARCH 24:** Gay Men's Chorus Concert - Proceeds Benefit FACT  
**MARCH 25:** Brunch & Bingo! @ Crowne Plaza, Hamilton & 9th Streets, Allentown

**APRIL 1:** SISTERHOOD 2! @ Rainbow Mountain Resort -- Sister Cities Uniting to Benefit FACTLV. Featuring: Pumpkin, Madalyne, Taylor Made, Carol Ann and MORE! Free HIV testing. Showtime 7:30PM, Donation \$5 @ door.

**APRIL 12:** Lehigh Valley HIV/AIDS Community Meeting @ Glasbern Inn -- Information and RSVP: 610-969-2192

**APRIL 28:** Inner-city Interfaith Collaborative Healthfair & Wellness

**JUNE 16:** Lehigh Valley Gay Pride -- FACT LV information table and membership drive.

**JUNE 22-24:** HIV/AIDS Awareness weekend @ THE WOODS

**JULY:** Annual Clambake

**SEPT 9:** 22ND ANNUAL SUMMER GAMES @ Rainbow Mountain

**OCT 7:** FACT AIDS WALK LEHIGH VALLEY

**DEC 3:** The 21st Annual SNOWBALL\*

**MUHLBERG COLLEGE'S GAY/ STRAIGHT ALLIANCE WILL BE HOSTING THE GSA'S ANNUAL QUEERFEST FROM MARCH 20-22 AT MUHLBERG COLLEGE, ALLENTOWN.**



# HOT NEWS

## HAVEN YOUTH GROUP

HAVEN MEETINGS : every Wednesday from 7:00 - 9:00PM at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 424 Center Street, Bethlehem. Meetings are open to GLBTAQI youth ages 14 - 20. Adult facilitator volunteers are needed for Wednesday evening meetings. Contact Pete Pellegrino ,havenyouthgroup@hotmail.com or visit Haven's Web page at [www.uucvlpa.org/haven](http://www.uucvlpa.org/haven).

## GLOSS EVENTS

The Gay & Lesbian Organized Sports Society (GLOSS) offers indoor & outdoor activities throughout the year. New GLBT and allied members are always welcome regardless of skill level.

During the cold months GLOSS offers bowling, racquetball and Pinochle. The schedule is as follows:

**Bowling:** the 2nd Friday of the month, starting at 8:45pm at the Playdrome in Allentown.

**Pinochle:** the 2nd Saturday of the month, starting at 7:00pm at the Moose Lounge, 28 N. 10th St., Allentown.

**Racquetball:** every Thursday and Saturday, starting at 7:00pm at the Allentown Racquet Club.

GLOSS has an email newsletter that will keep you updated on all their events. To sign up for the newsletter go to the website.

GLOSS is always looking for people willing to be activity leaders. If your favorite activity is not listed, they will help you organize an event or outing by promoting it in the newsletter and website: [www.gloss.org](http://www.gloss.org), or email: [Info@gloss.org](mailto:Info@gloss.org).

## GLBT NY EXPO

GLOSS is partnering with GLEE at Air Products to take you to the Original GLBT Expo in New York City. If you would like to go please respond to Sherri Bassner ([bassnesl@apci.com](mailto:bassnesl@apci.com)) so transportation can be arranged. The Original GLBT Expo takes place at the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center, on 38th Street at 11th Avenue, 24-25 March. Pre-register for a seminar, and get free entrance to the Expo. Or, if you attend the Expo, you can also attend any seminar for free. Register here: <http://outandequal.kintera.org/expo>. Visit the Original GLBT Expo website here: <http://www.originalglbtexpo.com>.

## DAN ANDERS RUNS FOR JUDGE

News Item: Philadelphia Attorney Dan Anders has declared his candidacy to the Philadelphia Common Pleas Court as the first openly gay man to run for public office in Philadelphia.

In the past Anders has given more than 300 hours of pro bono legal work each year representing LGBT individuals and organizations, including the Center for Civil Rights, Equality Forum, OutFest, the June Gay Pride parade and the AIDS Law Project of Pennsylvania.

Anders currently serves as general counsel to the Elton John AIDS Foundation, donating all of his legal work so that more money can go directly to programs benefiting persons living with HIV/AIDS.

The Lehigh Valley GLBT community will remember Dan for his extraordinary help and commitment to the successful defeat of the referendum effort to overturn Allentown's Anti-discrimination law. Without Dan Anders' tireless and brilliant (pro-bono) help, local activists and the City may never have won that fight.

People working on Ander's campaign include Martina Navratilova, who will be a special guest at a fundraiser for Anders on March 14th.

**LIST YOUR ORGANIZATION OR BUSINESS RESOURCE AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG**

## RAINBOW AA

Rainbow AA meetings Monday and Thursdays, 7:30pm 2nd flr, Church of the Mediator -1620 Turner St. Allentown, AA Hotline: 610-882-0558.

## TRANSGENDER SUPPORT

Lehigh Valley Renaissance is a fully chartered chapter of the National Renaissance Transgender Organization. Meetings are open to all persons identifying as Transgender whether you are a crossdresser or in gender transition, MtF or FtM - L.V. Renaissance is there to provide support. Meetings are held in the MCC Church at Merchants Square Mall, the second Saturday of every month at 8:00 pm Join in and help put the "T" in GLBT !! For inquiries or further information - on the web - [www.geocities.com/lvrenaissance](http://www.geocities.com/lvrenaissance) or email [lvrenaissance@yahoo.com](mailto:lvrenaissance@yahoo.com)

## PDN AT POTTSVILLE PFLAG

A projection of the PDN Photo Project, and a PDN presentation on the Photo Project and community organizing will be part of the Pottsville PFLAG meeting, March 15, 6:30pm at Reiley Community Building, 216 North 12th Street, Pottsville.

## NEW LV FACT BOARD

FACT Lehigh Valley has announced its new executive committee and Board of Directors. This year's President is Carl Mancino, Vice-President is Brian Marks, Secretary is Eleana Belletieri, and Treasurer is Bryon Reynolds. New to the Board are Dan Friedman, Robert Burton and Joseph Mannino. F.A.C.T. was founded in 1986 in response to the AIDS crisis. In 21 years, F.A.C.T. Lehigh Valley, an all-volunteer organization, has raised over \$2,000,000 to use as contingency funds for monthly assistance assuring a dignified quality of life for those infected and affected by HIV and AIDS. For more information see [www.factlv.org](http://www.factlv.org) or call 610-820-5519.

## MEN'S & WOMEN'S SOCIAL GROUPS AT METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH

**MCCLV MEN'S BREAKFAST** -- The MCCLV Men's Breakfast meets at Bob Evan's Restaurant on Lehigh Street in Allentown. All men are invited to join every Sunday morning for breakfast at 9:00 am. The Men's Breakfast offers this fellowship opportunity for men as a chance to get to know one another and strengthen relationships together. For more information, call Dale Parkhurst at 610-248-9566.

**MCCLV TEJAS WOMEN'S GROUP** - The "Tejas" Women's Group meets on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. at the church. For game nights, movies and other fun social activities. For more information, contact group leader DJ Landis at [dj.landis@mcclv.org](mailto:dj.landis@mcclv.org).

## MARCH 19: "SING OUT AGAINST THE WAR" RALLY (4TH ANNIV. OF US INVASION)

7-8pm on Muhlenberg College Campus (at Parents Plaza - Outside the Student Union, Rain Loc.: Egner Memorial Chapel. Performers and Speakers Include: Ryan Acquatta, The Muhlenberg Dynamics, Cantor Ellen Sussman, Rev. Beth Goudy, Rev. Peter Bredlau, and Dr. Peter Pettit (and more!) Open to the community, candles are provided. Sponsored by Muhlenberg College Democrats.



## 4 READING PFLAG (BERKS COUNTY)

Meets at 6:30, PM on the THIRD TUESDAY of each month, September through May at the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Reading & Berks County, 416 Franklin St. Reading. For information or to confirm scheduled meetings call: 610.858.9278. For more PFLAG information call the Help Lines: 610-967-5219, [www.eastern-pa-pflag.org](http://www.eastern-pa-pflag.org) or e-mail: [info@eastern-pa-pflag.org](mailto:info@eastern-pa-pflag.org).

## BERKS GSA

Note - Due to Poor Attendance all READING-BERKS GAY/STRAIGHT STUDENT ALLIANCE MEETINGS in Wyomissing are on hold until September 2007. For information, e-mail [RBGSSA@hotmail.com](mailto:RBGSSA@hotmail.com).

## PFLAG NEWS

PFLAG - Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays, [www.eastern-pa-pflag.org](http://www.eastern-pa-pflag.org). e-mail: [info@eastern-pa-pflag.org](mailto:info@eastern-pa-pflag.org). Meeting locations: LV - 1st Tues., 1st Pres. Church, Allentown. 610-967-5219. Reading - 3rd Tues., Unitarian Universalist Church, Reading. 610-967-5219. Monroe - 3rd. Wed., Eastern Monroe Public Library, Stroudsburg. 570-620-1234. Pottsville-3rd Thursday at 6:30PM, Terrence Reiley Community Building, 216 N. 12th Street, Pottsville: 570-624-3151 or e-mail [pflagpottsville@hotmail.com](mailto:pflagpottsville@hotmail.com).

### Meeting Dates:

Allentown - March 6, April 3, May 1, June 5, August 7, September 4, October 2, November 6, December 4  
Monroe - March 21, June 20, September 19, December 19  
Reading - March 20, April 17, May 15, September 18, October 16, November 20

## SYLVIA BY NICOLE HOLLANDER

## GLORA

GLORA (the Gay and Lesbian Organization of the Reading and Allentown areas) is a non-profit social group for adult men and women, both singles and couples. GLORA's activities range from potlucks, to game nights, bowling, movie nights, and holiday celebrations. Events are listed in a monthly newsletter that you will receive as a member. Some are family events that include children and some are just for adults. Members of GLORA may host events at their home or at an outdoor location. Hosting events is not mandatory to be a member. Membership: \$10 per household, annually. Web site: <http://glora.1colony.com> email: [GLORA@dejazzd.com](mailto:GLORA@dejazzd.com) or write: GLORA, PO Box 414, Fredrick, PA 19435.

## LGBTQA TEEN GROUP SPECTRUM IN READING

Planned Parenthood of North East Pennsylvania (PPNEP) founded Spectrum thanks to a grant by the Diversity Alliance Fund of Berks County Community Foundation. Since its inception in June, the number of teens attending Spectrum's meetings has grown exponentially.

Spectrum is open to LGBTQ teens and their allies ages 14-18. Meetings are held every Wednesday evenings from 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. on the second floor of PPNEP's Reading medial center.

Spectrum seeks adult volunteers to assist with the program. Criminal background checks, training and references are required. If you'd like to volunteer, contact sexuality educator and manager of Spectrum, Amber Brown at 610-376-0137.

## SYLVIA COMICS

SYLVIA comic artist and author Nicole Hollander has graciously agreed to let Valley Gay Press feature Sylvia comics. Grateful thanks to Nicole for this swell opportunity! For more check the Sylvia website: [www.nicolehollander.com](http://www.nicolehollander.com).

## PDN LIST OF UPCOMING EVENTS

March 1 - PDN Board members will be speaking at Berks Women in Crisis on GLBT Issues.

March 15 -- PDN Executive Director Liz Bradbury and PDN President Patricia Sullivan will be speaking at PFLAG Pottsville on community organizing and will be showing the projected version of the PDN Photo Project

March 31 through April 23 - The PDN Photo Project will be on exhibition at the Civic Theatre in Allentown in conjunction with the presentation of the play Love! Valor! Compassion!

April 28 - GLBT Art Show, with PDN Photo Show Bat Gabellini Design

May 20 - Fundraiser for Reading Pride at the Stirling Guest Hotel in Reading, PA. The PDN Photo Project will be featured at this event.

Mid June 2007 -- PDN will participate in Greater Lehigh Valley Pride's Pride in the Park Parade and Festival.

July 15, 2007 -- PDN will participate in Reading Pride's Pride Festival.

Mid October, 2007 -- Bingo! The Community had a great time at our Bingo event in 2006 and we'll be doing it again in 2007. If you represent a business, please consider donating a Bingo prize.

October 13, 2007-- PDN will have a team in the Woman's 5k Race to fight Breast Cancer, and will host a brunch afterward at the PDN offices. All women in the GLBT community are encouraged to participate. You know you've been meaning to do this for years...Be on our team and we'll make it easy and fun for you to do.

Mid December 2007 -- Rainbow Families Christmas Party for GLBT families with children. This event is co-sponsored by MCCLV and will be held at the Church.

## BERKS GAY MEN'S GROUP

BCGMSG holds social events for singles and couples two to three times a month for gay men from Berks County and surrounding counties. For more info email [berksgmsg@aol.com](mailto:berksgmsg@aol.com), web site at: [WWW.BERKSGMSG.COM](http://WWW.BERKSGMSG.COM).





# SOOZ VIEWS

By Sue Sneeringer  
OF TUBE, WIRE AND SOAP

"My Dad called television 'the boob tube.' He was afraid too much TV would rot our brains or lead us morally astray. It's a tricky line to walk for a parent, though, because there was no show I wanted to watch more in the Sixties than 'Laugh-In,' at least in part because it was forbidden. Ironically it was a show that made me smarter and I think I even understood that about it at the time.

He wouldn't have liked 'The Wire' on HBO either but I think it is AMAZING, SOULFUL television. It exposes every dirty little secret of contemporary American inner city life and the fallout from the politics of American capitalism, especially the last forty years worth. If Lyndon Johnson's 'failed' Great Society created a welfare dependent underclass, Ronald Reagan's rampant (and irresponsible) era of deregulation and 'less' government pulled the rug completely out from under everyone but the wealthy. I believe 'The Wire' depicts what rose up instead in our inner cities and has spread like a virus since. The BIG business of drugs ('Just Say No,' my ass). Where money is king and life is valued only as far as the next fix, the next stash, the next struggle to control the action at the corner. The writing is layered and mercilessly incisive (in Season Two the writing team created a storyline on the dying cargo lines of Baltimore's ports to counter the drug scene depicted in Season One that absolutely mirrored its voluminous subtext; in a word, brilliant). The direction & cinematography are right on. The acting's great for the most part but Wendell Pierce as 'Bunk' and Andre Royo as 'Bubbles' are more than Emmy-worthy (and always overlooked). All the shows characters are complex and flawed, even the good guys. Especially the good guys.

Mom, on the other hand, loved TV then and still does. With a bunch of kids under foot 24-7, I know that hour a day she escaped to 'Another World' saved our collective butts. Over at 'All My Children,' where the writing probably will rot your brain and the acting routinely sucks, there's a brave new world going on in the character of 'Zoe/Zoe,' American daytime's first transgender character (featured, that is...). The fact that Zoe finally emerged because she fell in love with the show's open lesbian, 'Bianca Montgomery,' speaks volumes itself.

I pretend no expertise about transgender issues, so I can't comment on how well (or poorly) AMC's creative team is addressing that. But I am compelled to watch, especially when it is the lesbian Bianca who was most threatened by Zoe revealing herself (and in this case, both actors are terrific). Since then, Bianca has seen the parallel of Zoe's coming out to the experience of her own. There the writing has been pretty good, I think, and I'm very curious about what will become of these two.

And say what you will about the boob tube, but even if Hollywood made a great movie about the life of a transgender character, more people will see Zoe in one month of AMC than will probably EVER see that movie. Even Dad might have to admit that's pretty cool.

## 5 PDN PHOTO PROJECT

IF YOU ARE PART OF A COMMITTED SAME-SEX COUPLE, PLEASE CONSIDER THIS YOUR SPECIAL INVITATION TO JOIN THIS PROJECT.

THE PHOTO PROJECT NEEDS YOU! THE NEXT PHOTO SHOOT WILL BE AT THE PA DIVERSITY NETWORK OFFICES ON SATURDAY AFTERNOON, MARCH 17 (ST. PATRICK'S DAY). PLEASE CALL THE PDN OFFICES TO LET US KNOW THAT YOU'LL BE STOPPING BY FOR A PICTURE 610-432-5449. FOR FULL INFORMATION ON THE PHOTO SHOW, SEE WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG.

FOR PICTURES OF THE PHOTO SHOW IN VARIOUS VENUES AND FOR PICTURES OF THE MUHLENBERG SHOW RECEPTION, SEE THE PA DIVERSITY NETWORK WEB SITE AT: WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG

THE PDN PHOTO PROJECT -- 100 SAME-SEX COUPLES: FACING INEQUALITY IS CURRENTLY ON EXHIBITION AT METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH THRU MID MARCH.

AFTER THAT, IT WILL BE AT CIVIC THEATER FOR THE RUN OF LOVE! VALOR! COMPASSION! FROM LATE MARCH THROUGH MOST OF APRIL.

THE PHOTO SHOW WILL BE AT GABELLINI DESIGN FOR A SPECIAL ART SHOW ON APRIL 28.

AND WILL BE AT THE READING PRIDE FESTIVAL FUNDRAISER AT THE STIRLING HOTEL IN READING ON MAY 20.

PROJECTION OF THE PHOTOS WILL BE FEATURED AT THE MARCH POTTSVILLE PFLAG MEETING ON MARCH 15TH. ARRANGEMENTS ARE BEING MADE FOR A VARIETY OF OTHER EXHIBITION VENUES.

THE BELOW ARTICLE WAS FEATURED IN PPL'S IN-HOUSE NEWSBULLETIN IN MID-FEBRUARY.

The "Pennsylvania Diversity Network Photo Project -- 100 Same Sex Couples: Facing Inequality" exhibit will be on display starting Monday in Allentown, Pa. (At PPL on Feb 12 through Feb 16) The exhibit features pictures of couples, many from the Lehigh Valley area, and educational materials about discrimination and civil unions.

A photo exhibit of 130 same-sex couples will be on display starting next week (At PPL on Feb 12 through Feb 16) in the General Office complex in Allentown, Pa. The Pennsylvania Diversity Network Photo Project -- 100 Same-Sex Couples: Facing Inequality coincides with Valentine's Day and is sponsored by GLOW, PPL's Gay and Lesbian Organization in the Workplace.

"This exhibit allows us to put a face on the same-sex couples in our area who face inequality every day," said Russ Fernsler, GLOW's president. "The exhibit features educational materials about discrimination and civil unions. No matter what your opinion is on this issue, I think you can learn something from the exhibit."

The couples in the exhibit all live or formerly lived in Pennsylvania and most are from the Lehigh Valley area or Berks County. Each photo is labeled with the couple's names, their professions, the number of years they have been together and the number of children they have, if any. The photographs have been displayed at Air Products and Chemicals in Trexlertown, Muhlenberg College in Allentown and Northampton Community College in Bethlehem Township.

Photographer and Project Coordinator Liz Bradbury began the project in February 2006 to remind the public of the discrimination faced by the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered community. "In every venue we've exhibited these photos, viewers have recognized people they know and learned how these friends, neighbors and colleagues have to endure the lack of civil rights that the rest of the population takes for granted," she said. GLOW is one of PPL's business resource groups and part of the Diversity Council.



# 6 CALENDAR

**Am Haskalah**, Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation, Services at Allentown JCC at 22nd and Tilghman Streets. <http://www.jrf.org/amhaskpa>, 610-435-3775

**ACCO-A Chorus Celebrating Women**, **AIDS Outreach**-112 N. 5th St. Allentown, PA 610.435.8424

**AIDSWALK**-see **FACT**  
ASC- AIDS Service Center 610.974.8701

**BGMSG** - Berk's County Gay Men's Social Group -- singles and couples social events [berksgmsg@aol.com](mailto:berksgmsg@aol.com)

**BMA**- Bucks/Montgomery Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Concerns 215-529-0360

**CIVIC and 19th St. Theater**, 527 N 19th St, 610-432-8943, <[civictheater.com](mailto:civictheater.com)>

**CUUPS** -- Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans every 4th Sunday at noon at the UUCLV. [uucv\\_cuups@yahoo.com](mailto:uucv_cuups@yahoo.com)

**Enigma Players** -- [qacres@prolog.net](mailto:qacres@prolog.net)  
**equal@agere** - email: [equal@agere.com](mailto:equal@agere.com)

**FACT**- Fighting AIDS Continuously Together 610.820.5519

**Gaydar Magazine** -- [www.gaydarmagazine.com](http://www.gaydarmagazine.com)  
**GLEE** at Air Products

**GLISN** - at Dun & Bradstreet, <[vagrantthollow.com/GLISN/](mailto:vagrantthollow.com/GLISN/)>

**GLORA**- Gay and Lesbian Organization of Reading and Allentown [www.glora.1colony.com](http://www.glora.1colony.com), [glora@dejazzed.com](mailto:glora@dejazzed.com)

**GLOSS** - Gay and Lesbian Organized Sports Society, [www.gloss.org](http://www.gloss.org) Info@[gloss.org](mailto:gloss.org)

**GLOW**-at PPL  
**HAVEN** GLBT Youth Group of the UUCLV - call: 610-868-2153, email: [havenyouthgroup@hotmail.com](mailto:havenyouthgroup@hotmail.com)

**HMFF**-Hope Ministry Family Fellowship, Sundays, 11 am, Open Space Gallery, 931 Hamilton St. 610-791-0716

**Integrity**- Lesbian & Gay Episcopalians Family & Friends meets quarterly. 610-758-8642 [gamba.guy@verizon.net](mailto:gamba.guy@verizon.net)

**Infoline** - Greater LV GLBT Infoline: 610-HELP123 (435-7123) M-F 6pm -9pm Office: 610-432-5449 info@[padiversity.org](mailto:padiversity.org)

**INTERWEAVE** -- GLBT group at the UUCLV, 3rd Sundays.. [Interweave\\_UUCLV@yahoo.com](mailto:Interweave_UUCLV@yahoo.com), [www.uucvpa.org](http://www.uucvpa.org) 610-866-7652

**LVGMC** -Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus, email: [info@lvgmc.org](mailto:info@lvgmc.org), <[www.lvgmc.org](http://www.lvgmc.org)> 610-366-3320, rehearsals: Tues.-Wesley United Methodist Church, 2540 Center St., Bethlehem

**Lehigh Valley Transsexual Coalition**- 610-610-997-0976, [humanrights4all@aol.com](mailto:humanrights4all@aol.com), 610-814-0530 [JamesHalleman@aol.com](mailto:JamesHalleman@aol.com)

**MCC** - Metropolitan Community Church, Merchants Square Mall, 1901 S. 12th Street, Allentown Services: 10:30am & 6pm, [mcclehighvalley@yahoo.com](mailto:mcclehighvalley@yahoo.com), <http://www.mcciv.org> 610-709-8800

**Muhlenberg GSA** Muhlenberg College Organization 610.821.3244

**NCC**- Northampton Community College GLB Student Union, 610.861.5541 (#1386) or 610-767-0296

**19th St & Civic Theatre** - 610.432.8943  
**OutThere**- Students at CedarCrest College

**PA-Diversity Network**- 610-432-5449 [www.padiversity.org](http://www.padiversity.org) PO Box 22902 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002

**PA-GALA** - Pennsylvania Gay And Lesbian Alliance, (Candidate Guide, & Political Lobbying) P.O.Box 20825 Lehigh Valley 18002 610-863-0227 [www.pa-gala.org](http://www.pa-gala.org)

**PARENTS**- GLBT parent's group: 610-262-2519 Lesbians and Gays, 1st Tues. 1st Pres. Church Allentown 610.967.5219 [www.eastern-pflag.org](http://www.eastern-pflag.org)

## MARCH 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 RAA GLOSS PDN - @ Berks W.C.	2 TO PLAY CIVIC PLAY R Week	3 GLOSS WDIY Touchstone
4 TO PLAY	5 RAA 19th St. Movie	6 LV PFLAG LVGMC	7 HAVEN SPECTRUM	8 GLOSS RAA 19th St. Movie	9 TO PLAY	10 WDIY GLOSS
11 UUCLV GLOSS MCC 19th St. Movie HMFF WDIY	12 RAA	13 LVGMC	14 HAVEN SPECTRUM	15 RAA GLOSS PDN - @ Pottsville	16	17 GLOSS WDIY PDN - Photo Shoot
18 Interweave GLOSS MCC 19th St. Movie	19 RAA Peace Rally	20 R PFLAG LVGMC	21 HAVEN SPECTRUM	22 TO PLAY CIVIC PLAY R Week	23 TO PLAY Touchstone Pride Fundraiser	24 LVGMC WDIY TO PLAY
25 GLBT Expo MCC 19th St. Movie	26 FACT BINGO	27 LVGMC 19th St. Movie	28 HAVEN SPECTRUM	29 GLOSS Muhlenberg Theatre	30	31 GLOSS WDIY PHOTO PRO AT CIVIC

## APRIL 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 MCC HMFF Touchstone 9th St. Movie	2 PHOTO PROJ AT CIVIC	3 LV PFLAG LVGMC	4 HAVEN SPECTRUM	5 RAA GLOSS	6 19th St. Movie	7 GLOSS WDIY PHOTO PROJ AT CIVIC
8 WDIY UUCLV HMFF 19th St. Movie	9 RAA	10 LVGMC PHOTO PROJ AT CIVIC	11 HAVEN SPECTRUM	12 RAA GLOSS	13 PHOTO PROJ AT CIVIC	14 GLOSS WDIY
15 MCC GLOSS WDIY HMFF 19th St. Movie	16 RAA PDN Photo Project	17 R PFLAG LVGMC	18 HAVEN M PFLAG SPECTRUM	19 GLOSS RAA	20 TO PLAY PRIDE BEN	21 WDIY GLOSS 9th St. Movie
22 GLOSS UUCLV MCC Interweave	23 PHOTO PROJ AT CIVIC PDN Photo Project	24 RAA LVGMC	25 HAVEN SPECTRUM	26 RAA GLOSS 19th St. Movie	27	28 WDIY GLOSS GABELLIN ART SHOW FACT Health Fair
29 WDIY UUCLV HMFF GLOSS MCC	30 RAA					

## MAY 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 HAVEN SPECTRUM	3 RAA GLOSS	4	5 WDIY GLOSS
6 GLOSS UUCLV MCC HMFF	7 RAA	8 LVGMC	9 HAVEN SPECTRUM	10 RAA GLOSS	11	12 GLOSS WDIY
13 WDIY UUCLV MCC HMFF	14 RAA	15 LVGMC	16 HAVEN SPECTRUM	17 GLOSS RAA P PFLAG	18	19 WDIY GLOSS
20 Interweave	21 RAA	22 LVGMC	23 HAVEN SPECTRUM	24 RAA GLOSS	25	26 WDIY GLOSS
27 GLOSS MCC UUCLV	28 RAA	29 LVGMC	30 HAVEN SPECTRUM	31		



**PFLAG** - LV Parents Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays, 1st Tues. 1st Pres. Church Allentown 610.967.5219 [www.eastern-pa-pflag.org](http://www.eastern-pa-pflag.org)

**Pride** - Pride of the Greater Lehigh Valley, (Pride Festival) 610.770.6200, email: <info@prideglv.org>, <www.prideglv.org>

**Progressive Students Alliance** - [www.lehigh.edu/~inpstua/vpsa/whatpsa.htm](http://www.lehigh.edu/~inpstua/vpsa/whatpsa.htm)

**QueEST** - Student group at Lafayette College

**Quakers** - Lehigh Valley Friends Meeting - Route 512 1/2 mi. North of Rte 22 Bethlehem, PA. Worship at 9:30 am. (610)691-3411.

**RAA** - Rainbow AA meetings Monday & Thursdays, 7:30p. 2nd flr Church of the Mediator - 1620 Turner St. Allentown, AA Hotline: 610-882-0558.

**Rainbow Families** - [donniearlucas@msn.com](mailto:donniearlucas@msn.com)

**Ren** - Renaissance Transgendered Assoc., Meets at MCCLV [renlv.org](mailto:renlv.org)

**Reading P-FLAG** - 610-967-5219

**Safe Space** - At Lehigh U. 610.758.5973

**Temple Sophia**, Interfaith Sanctuary 117 E Ridge St., Coaldeale 18218 570-657-6447 Pastor: Rt. Rev. Tom Cormier

**T.O.** - Theatre Outlet, Allentown, 610-820-9270.

**UUCLV** - Unitarian Universalist Church LV, 424 Center St., Bethlehem, 18018 610.866.7652.

**VGP** - Valley Gay Press, 610.432.5449, [VGP@padiversity.org](mailto:VGP@padiversity.org) VGP PO Box 22902 Lehigh Valley PA 18002 [www.padiversity.org](http://www.padiversity.org)

**Wachovia-GALEA** - Gay and Lesbian Employee Association. Contact GALEA at Wachovia.com

**WDIY** - WDIY - 88.1 fm 93.9 fm Sat. 6:00 pm This Way Out, Assorted Women 6:30 pm. 8100.88.

**SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**RAINBOW AA - MON & THURS**  
**LVGMC REHEARSALS - TUESDAYS**  
**LV PFLAG - 1ST TUESDAYS**  
**READING - PFLAG 3RD TUES**  
**MCCLV TEJAS WOMAN'S GRP - WEDS**  
**HAVEN - WEDS**  
**READING SPECTRUM - WEDS**  
**MONROE PFLAG - 3RD WEDS**  
**MAR, JUN, SEPT, DEC**  
**POTTSVILLE PFLAG - 3RD THURS**  
**GLOSS RAC-BALL-THURS & SAT**  
**GLOSS BOWLING - 2ND FRI**  
**GLOSS PINOCCHIO - 2ND SAT**  
**RENAISSANCE - 2ND SAT**  
**INTERWEAVE - 3RD SUNDAYS**  
**MCCLV MENS GRP - SUNDAYS**

**MAR 1 - PDN @BERKS WOMEN IN CRISIS**  
**MAR 1 - 4 - CIVIC PLAY**  
**MAR 1 - 11 - TO PLAY**  
**MAR 2 - ROBERTA MEEK**  
**MAR 2-3 - TOUCHSTONE PLAY**  
**MAR 5-11 - 19TH ST**  
**MAR 9 - TOUCHSTONE PLAY**  
**MAR 15 - PDN @POTTSVILLE PFLAG**  
**MAR 17 - PDN PHOTO SHOOT**  
**MAR 17-25 - 19TH ST**  
**MAR 18 - 19TH ST**  
**MAR 19 - SING-OUT PEACE RALLY**  
**MAR 20-22 MUHLENBERG QUEERFEST**  
**MAR 21 - APR 1 - TOUCHSTONE PLAY**  
**MAR 22-25 - TO PLAY**  
**MAR 23 - PRIDE FUNDRAISER**  
**MAR 24 - LVGMC**  
**MAR 24-25 - NY GLBT EXPO**  
**MAR 24-APR 1 - 19TH ST**  
**MAR 25 - FACT BINGO**  
**MAR 29-APR 1 - MUHLENBERG THEATRE**  
**MAR 31-APR 23 - PHOTO PROJ @ CIMC**  
**MAR 31 - APR 8 - 19TH ST**  
**APR 1 - FACT BENEFIT**  
**APR 7-15 - 19TH ST**  
**APR 28 - GABELLINI ART SHOW**  
**APR 28 - FACT HEALTH FAIR**  
**MAY 20 - READING FUNDRAISER**  
**JUN 16 - LV PRIDE**  
**JUN 22-24 FACT @ THE WOODS**  
**JUL 15 - READING PRIDE**

INFORMATION SUBJECT TO CHANGE!  
 TO POST INFO: 610-432-5449  
 INFO@PADIVERSITY.ORG

## MCCFTMD REPORT

MCCLV recognized National Freedom to Marry Day on February 9 and February 10 with two special events. On Friday, MCCLV led a Marriage Equality rally at the Lehigh County Courthouse, with over 30 supporters in attendance on a very cold and windy morning. The rally was covered by NBC 10 in Philadelphia, as well as FOX News 29.

Six same-gender couples applied for marriage licenses and while they were denied a license, Lehigh County does enter the application into their database. So the couples were noted in the County's records, which will serve an important historical purpose.

On Saturday over 140 people gathered at MCCLV for a Freedom to Marry Interfaith Worship Celebration that included a Blessing of Singles, a Blessing of Relationships and a same-gender wedding ceremony. Eight clergy, representing a variety of faith traditions led the celebration. Following the service was a reception and dance.

MCCLV thanks the co-sponsors of this event: Muhlenberg College Gay-Straight Alliance, Pennsylvania Diversity Network, PFLAG and Renaissance. The church also thanks ALL who assisted with these special events, making 2007's observance another great celebration.

MCCLV will be leading the Courthouse Action and Worship Celebration every year until same-gender marriage rights are achieved in Pennsylvania. Next year's Courthouse Action will be on Friday, February 8, 2008, the Worship Celebration is scheduled for Saturday, February 9, 2008.

## WACHOVIA

In keeping with PDN's efforts to celebrate companies that support their GLBT employees here's a letter sent to us by Wachovia Bank Team Leader D. Todd Bicket (edited for length by VGP):

...Diversity at Wachovia is a business imperative, here in the Lehigh Valley and beyond. Aligning with our customer base, engaging our communities, and attracting and retaining talented diverse individuals are critical to our success. We believe in recognizing, understanding, and respecting differences among all people. These differences include but are not limited to race, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, work/life status, ethnic origin, culture, spiritual beliefs and practices, age, level, physical/mental ability, and veteran status. Wachovia gives DOP benefits.

Some of our Diversity strategies for 2007-09 are: ...To hold leaders accountable at all levels of the company for achieving measurable results on diversity components of their business plans...To increase diverse representation in the highest valued jobs and at the senior most levels in our company...

...I am proud to represent Wachovia here in the Lehigh Valley and throughout Pennsylvania as the Regional Coordinator for GALEA (Gay and Lesbian Employee Association)...On behalf of Wachovia, I personally invite you to become a valued customer, employee or shareholder. ...To learn more about Wachovia and the (se) opportunities...visit our website at [www.Wachovia.com](http://www.Wachovia.com) or contact me directly, D. Todd Bicket, Team Leader/Bank Officer, Dennis.Bicket@Wachovia.com (610) 782-7598

## RANTS & RAVES BY STEPHEN T. LIBBY

Where is our Pride? I thought it was just the Lehigh Valley. After all our proximity to Philadelphia and New York offers us alternatives to working for our own June Pride celebration. We can just attend their festivals and not get involved locally. It is much easier to attend someone else's than get involved in one's own. You don't have to attend meetings and help plan events. Just go the "day of" and enjoy the parade, eats and entertainment. Then, done for another year. But it seems that isn't the case. New York's Pride (New York, people!!) is even finding it difficult to recruit Pride organizers. Especially youth.

Can it be that all the blood, sweat and tears of fighting for our rights over the years is being met with an apathy from the younger population because they are not aware of a life before Will & Grace, Queer As Folk and Ellen DeGeneres? I didn't live through the Stonewall Riots (yes, plural - google it.) but it doesn't mean that I can't appreciate the fact that I cannot marry the person of my choice in the state that I live or be guaranteed any of the rights of heterosexual, marriage.

While things are getting better, they are not the best they can be. Or will be. But, we need people to stand up and help make a difference. There are many ways to do that. I firmly believe that a quiet movement as well as political voices are needed. The Annual Freedom to Marry demonstration, for one, has been successful in increasing the visibility of the GLBT population who are only demanding what their straight neighbors, family members and colleagues take for granted; legal marriage and the rights associated with it.

Another, TakeOver Lehigh Valley, a social group of 18 months, is one way to get the message across to merchants that the gay dollar is out there and the GLBT population is a desirable demographic to cater to. The first TakeOver started with 35 people and the latest had over 150. TakeOver has stepped up to offer help in raising money for Pride of the Greater Lehigh Valley. On Friday March 23rd at 6:30pm, they will be taking over South Side Bethlehem. South Side TakeOver will include 16 merchants who are offering discounted items, refreshments, entertainment and more, to those who purchase bracelets to attend this event. All proceeds benefit Pride of the Greater Lehigh Valley. Go to [prideglv.org](http://prideglv.org) to purchase your bracelet and get in on the fun. Meet some new people, have a great time and get your Pride On!!





by Earl and Donnie Snyder

## AS THE WORLD TURNS IN LUCAS'S LIFE

Our son, Lucas, had a birthday in January, and is now three years old. People seem so amazed when we tell them, but to us it feels like he has come to be three slowly. Many say children grow up so fast. We are the ones that seem to be getting older quickly! January came by so slowly for his Birthday and June is coming up so quickly for us!

Lucas's Birthday party was great! We decided on a guest list, just including some close friends and family. Our home is small, so we knew we had to limit ourselves. We had to pick a theme for the party too. Was it going to be one of the gay children's show icons like Barney or Tinky Winky? Would it be the strong woman, like one of the Power Puff Girls? Or maybe just go all out and do a Joan Crawford or Bette Davis theme. Instead we settled on "quite butch"... Bob the Builder, (with a touch of Elmo, but not campy at all).

There were a few children from our GLBTA parent group, where Lucas has made some friends from families like ours. They enjoyed running rampant in the house and hitting a balloon around the living room, while their parents mingled with our other friends and family, gay and straight. In the end Lucas made out like a bandit with gifts! So many gifts in a short time span, between Christmas and his birthday.

Now that Lucas is three he has been wanting to socialize more with other children. Just recently Lucas has made a new friend, Chase. Chase is the son of one of my (Earl's) straight co-workers. The two children are quite a match for each other. Chase is a year younger, but they have common behaviors. They are both in the "it's mine" phase and are learning to share with each other. When Lucas is with other children, such as in his tumbling class, he does know how to share most times and to wait his turn to do certain activities. When he has his weekly time with Chase, it is only the two of them, which makes it for some reason, more difficult.

The two of them are basically in the same situation; they don't have lots of other children in the same age range to play with on a regular basis. Hopefully, a lasting friendship will bloom in the near future. Since Chase's parents are the opposite-sex, it will provide Lucas with the experience of himself having same-sex parents and having friends with opposite-sex parents. The diverse people in Lucas's life will probably make Lucas a fairly open minded young man. It may also give him various avenues of support, whatever sexual identity he may have.

## GREATER LEHIGH VALLEY PRIDE

### ANNOUNCES BOARD MEMBERS

The 2007 Pride of the Greater Lehigh Valley Board of Directors includes: Shawn Bausher: President, Douglas Lindsay: Vice President, Brandon Warner: Treasurer, Carol Chadwick: Secretary. Members-At-Large: Rob Hopkins, Paige Keeter, Joe Schutte, Brad Wentz.

## ROBERTA SINGS AT FOX

PDN Board member Roberta Meek will be singing on First Friday, on March 2, in Bethlehem, at Fox Optical at 28 East Third Street, Bethlehem. She will be accompanied by guitarist Tom Kozic, who teaches at Muhlenberg College.

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## RAGS TO RICHES TAKE THE FIRST STEP

by Denise McKelvey

### DENISE WILL BE BACK IN APRIL WITH A NEW COLUMN.

Denise McKelvey, CFS is a financial advisor located at 1045 S Cedar Crest Blvd. Please forward your e-mails to [denise.m.mckelvey@ampf.comorcall](mailto:denise.m.mckelvey@ampf.comorcall) 610.439.7000.

### SPECIAL EVENT!

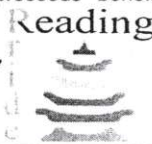
## READING PRIDE FUNDRAISER

Reading Pride presents - An Evening at Stirling: A Celebration of Pride and Diversity on May 20, at the Stirling Guest Hotel, 1120 Centre Avenue in Reading, from 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM. The event will feature food and drink, to be followed by a concert given by: Danny Coldren, a pianist who is a graduate of the Manhattan School of Music and had his Weil recital debut at Carnegie Hall in 1996. Vocals will be performed by: Ira Leighton, a graduate of the Boston Conservatory of Music and Scott Tiergrossi, a graduate of Mansfield University. Matt Emkey, also performing on piano, is the featured organist for the Germantown United Methodist Church and a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Reading Pride is extremely happy to have Liz Bradbury, Executive Director of Pennsylvania Diversity Network (PDN) who will be presenting the Berks County debut of the PDN Photo Project: 100 Same Sex Couples Facing Inequality on exhibition at the event. Same-sex Couples wishing to participate in the Photo Project will be able to have their pictures taken at the event. For more information about the Photo Project see [www.padiversity.org](http://www.padiversity.org).

This is the first fundraiser event for Reading Pride (which will be presenting the Reading Pride Festival on July 15). Ticket price for the event is \$25.00 For tickets and info call: 610 375-8209 or email: [RB1502@aol.com](mailto:RB1502@aol.com). All proceeds benefit Reading Pride.

FOR INFORMATION ON THE READING PRIDE FESTIVAL, OR TO HELP WITH THE PLANNING OF THE FESTIVAL EMAIL: [READINGPRIDE@GMAIL.COM](mailto:READINGPRIDE@GMAIL.COM)



READ ABOUT RAINBOW FAMILIES. THE GROUP FOR GLBTA FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN. IN THE RAINBOW FAMILIES SECTION OF PA DIVERSITY NETWORK'S WEB SITE AT [WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG](http://WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG).

## 19TH STREET FILMS

Civic Theatre's 19th Street Film Series - March 5 thru April 15 -- 527 N. 19th Street, Allentown.

Film information: (610) 432-0888 [www.civictheatre.com](http://www.civictheatre.com)  
Venus: March 5-11

The Lives of Others: March 10-18

The Painted Veil: March 17- 25

Unconscious: March 24 - April 1

The Italian: March 31 - April 8

Little Children: April 7 - April 15



## STEVIE ZIMINSKY ELECTED TO UCC POST

At a February organization meeting of the church Consistory at St. Peter's UCC in Allentown, Steve Ziminsky was elected to the post of Vice President. "This is a one year term and it is an honor to be selected," said Steve, after the meeting.

## GLOSS AT THE WOODS

The Woods Campground has posted the schedule of themed weekends for 2007 on their website: <http://www.thewoodscamground.com>.

GLOSS is planning at least one camping event this summer and has picked the "Summer Games" themed weekend, which will take place July 27-29. To join GLOSS, please make plans to be at the Woods on that weekend. GLOSS would like to enter a team for the competition, so if you would like to participate let GLOSS know. <http://www.gloss.org>, [Info@gloss.org](mailto:Info@gloss.org).

## THEATRE OUTLET PLAYS

**GRASS ROOTS: 4 One-Act Plays** by Pennsylvania Playwrights will be staged by Theatre Outlet at the Silkwerks in Allentown March 22 to 25, 2007. *Blonde Bombshell* by Susan E. Sneeringer, the story of three generations of women affected by the 1950's blacklist, will headline. It will be joined by three other one-act plays which will be making their stage premiere. Sydney Davis and Sandy Marino return from the successful Fringe production in their roles as Lois and Emma. They will be joined by Rebecca Ackner in the role of Shannon. Performances are Thursday through Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m. Tickets are available online at [www.theatreoutlet.org](http://www.theatreoutlet.org) or by calling the box office at 610-820-9440.

## MUHLENBERG DANCE-THEATER

**CORPS: A Dance Theatre Fable** on stage March 29 - April 1 at Muhlenberg College

CORPS, an original dance-theatre work created and directed by Muhlenberg senior Chris Shepard, uses both movement and text to explore the metaphor of the Rime of the Ancient Mariner as a way of looking at the global AIDS crisis. Inspired by the history of Patient Zero, CORPS reveals a haunting examination of the relationship between infection and storytelling as the legacies we leave behind us. Onstage in the Studio Theatre of the Trexler Pavilion for Theatre & Dance from March 29 to April 1, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at 8 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets available at the box office: 484-664-3333 or at [www.muhlenberg.edu/tickets](http://www.muhlenberg.edu/tickets).

## TOUCHSTONE THEATRE PLAYS

--- Friday, March 2 - 8PM TAAL APPRECIATION Lecture and demonstration by virtuoso Tabla (Indian drum) player, Pandit Samir Chatterjee. Admission: \$7 Saturday.  
--- March 3, THE TALISMAN: THE FAIRY TALE LIFE OF HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN - a patchwork quilt of fantasy and gentle humor or Andersen's real life story with some of his most beloved tales and characters. March 3rd at 11am. Tickets: \$10 for adults, \$8 for students or seniors.

# VALLEY GAY PRESS

web site: [www.padiversity.org](http://www.padiversity.org)

Publisher, Managing Editor -- Liz Bradbury

Publisher, Editor -- Patricia Sullivan

Columnists: Liz Bradbury, Patricia Sullivan, Denise McKelvey, Donnie Snyder, Earl Snyder, Stephen Libby, Scott Laubner, Sue Sneeringer and others

**Valley Gay Press - The Lehigh Valley and Berks County's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Community Opinion and Newspaper (VGP)**

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### Organizations that have VGPs for hand-out distribution:

Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley  
1901 S. 12th Street, Allentown 610-709-8800  
PFLAG Allentown, Reading and Pottsville -- see meeting schedule  
Pride House at Muhlenberg College, Allentown  
19th Street Theater -- 527 N 19th St. Allentown  
Unitarian Universalist Church of the Lehigh Valley (UULV)  
-- 424 Center St., Bethlehem  
Haven GLBT Youth Group at UULV  
Theatre Outlet, 930 N. 4th St. Allentown  
Most Libraries in Berks County  
Planned Parenthood NEPA 48 S. 4th St. Reading  
Easy Does It Clubhouse (Berks County), Berks - Reading GSA  
Allen HS GSA, Reading HS GSA, Gov Mifflin HS GSA  
Wilson High School GSA, Berks AIDS Network  
Berks Mens Social Group, Kutztown University GLBT Center  
Reading Area Community College GSA  
48 S. 4th St., Reading

### Businesses that have VGPs for hand-out distribution:

Diamondz Nightclub -- 1913 W. Broad St., Bethlehem  
Stonewall Bar -- 28-30 N. 10th St., Allentown  
Candida's -- 247 N. 12th St., Allentown  
Hava Java Coffee Shop -- N. 19th St. Allentown  
Fountainhead Books -- 641 Penn Ave., West Reading  
Dreamscape Comics -- 310 W. Broad St., Bethlehem  
The Woods Campground  
Red Star Saloon -- 11 S. 10th St., Reading  
Valley Gay Press is published 10 times a year monthly, excepting February and September. Deadlines are the 18th of the previous month, except the Pride - July issue which is earlier. The membership cycle of PA Diversity Network begins in January. Circulation: 1300-2000 papers per issue. Readership: 3500.  
To Contact Valley Gay Press:  
Mail to: PO Box 22902 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002  
Phone: 610-432-5449 Email: [info@padiversity.org](mailto:info@padiversity.org)  
To arrange for your group or organization to receive copies to distribute, contact VGP. Some restrictions apply.

--- Friday, March 9, Touchstone will be co-hosting a "Firehouse Friday" event with the Southside Film Festival. The film *Shakespeare Behind Bars* starts at 8pm; tickets \$5.  
--- March 21 -- April 1 OUCH! THREE TAKES ON HEALTHCARE: "And Now For your Physical!", "July 7, 1994", "A Discussion on Community Health." Produced and presented by Touchstone Theatre, directed by Mark McKenna.  
\$20/\$18, some nights Pay-What-You-Will at the door. For information: 610-867-1689 [www.touchstone.org](http://www.touchstone.org). Touchstone Theatre, 321 E. 4th Street, Bethlehem.





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# MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name/s \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Senior dues (over 65) \$5

☐ Individual dues \$15

☐ Family dues \$20

Please fill out this form and mail it with your check to PDN.  
Make checks payable to PDN.

☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ other

LEHIGH VALLEY RESIDENTS MAIL TO:

**PDN**  
**PO BOX 22902**  
**LEHIGH VALLEY, PA 18002**

BERKS COUNTY RESIDENTS MAIL TO:

**PDN**  
**PO BOX 242**  
**MERTZTOWN, PA 19539**

**BECOME A MEMBER OF PA DIVERSITY NETWORK  
TO GET A SUBSCRIPTION TO THE VALLEY GAY PRESS**

## PA DIVERSITY NETWORK MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

**PLEASE PAY YOUR 2007 MEMBERSHIP DUES.** Membership to PA Diversity Network, which brings you a 2007 subscription to the Valley Gay Press, is just \$15 for an individual membership and \$20 for a family membership.

PA Diversity Network is a not-for-profit volunteer driven organization which supports the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender community of the Greater Lehigh Valley and Berks County.

PDN's projects include: The Valley Gay Press, The GLBT Infoline, the PDN Resource Web Site, the PDN Photo Project -- 100 Same-sex Couples and Rainbow Families. PDN also fights individual instances of discrimination on a case by case basis, does presentations to organizations, educational institutions and businesses on GLBT issues, and brings the community entertaining and fun activities like special concert events, art shows, community action opportunities, Bingo, and participation with other organizations.

PDN occasionally receives grant money for projects, but mainly exists and functions financially on contributions and memberships from people like you. Please become a 2007 member of PDN and further support PDN with a contribution. PDN is a 501(c)3 tax deductible organization.

## CIRCULATE YOUR GROUP'S INFO

VGP is a free way for GLBTA friendly groups and organizations to get their information to hundreds of people in the Greater Lehigh Valley and Berks County. If you represent a pro-GLBT group or organization, or if you would like to start one, email PA Diversity Network (info@padiversity.org) or call the PDN offices at 610-432-5449 to find out how to list and circulate information about your group. It's free.

**PA DIVERSITY  
NETWORK'S  
RESOURCE WEB SITE  
WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG**

**ADD OR UPDATE  
YOUR  
ORGANIZATIONS  
OR BUSINESS'S  
RESOURCE LISTING  
AT PDN'S WEB SITE**

## MONROE PFLAG CHANGE

Beginning in 2007, Monroe PFLAG meetings will be held every three months. The schedule will be: January 17, March 21, June 20, September 19, and December 19. Meetings will still be at the Hughes Library and the meetings are 7:00 until 9:00 p.m., in the Community Room.

**CHECK OUT PA DIVERSITY'S WEBSITE AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG**





## LIZ OUT LOUD<sup>©</sup> 11

### ITS NOT THE SAME *By Liz Bradbury*

Now that New Jersey has Civil Unions, the mainstream press has been saying that New Jersey gays can have all the legal rights of marriage. This is not true. Civil Unions give State rights but not Federal rights. If you ever have to make this point to someone who doesn't get it.

Remind them of this:

The 2000 US Census reports 21,000 NJ same-sex domestic partner households ...that's 42,000 people. Among all those people there must quite a few serving in the military, many in Iraq. Under the Don't Ask Don't Tell regulations -- even if they have a civil union -- these soldiers cannot ever mention to a military chaplain, or military therapist, or their C.O. or any other military person that they might be concerned or worried about their (civil unioned) spouse back home...because that would be "telling" and under regulations, an officer is absolutely required to discharge them. There's no middle ground -- mention that you have a same-sex partner and you are out. Consider the effect on a soldier's moral.

And consider all the benefits the partner at home loses -- no PX, no housing, no support groups, no emails back and forth that would give anything away, no healthcare, no listing the spouse as next of kin to notify and if the worst happens and the service person is killed -- no military pension. This is just one way civil unions are not the same as marriage. There are 1399 more ways.

### PDN RECEIVES HATE MAIL, AND IT S A GOOD SIGN:

We've been the target of hate mail from anti-GLBT bigots in the past, so we know one thing for sure -- the more nutso it gets the more we are scaring the far right with our success. It seems that our work in Berks County is really rattling the cages of people who don't want to see the GLBT community unite, share information and gain rights. Here's some real lines from a recent wild email we received:

\*\*\*\*\*You're a disgracy (sic).... You are a nonrofit and that makes you vulnerable I work for the IRS and I am watching. You stuff is crappy and everyone I have talked to feel that way. ...leave Berks County alone.\*\*\*\*\*

"...nonrofit..."? Who is this guy, Scoobydoo?

Though this email author awkwardly implied he or she is a GLBT person, the chances this is really from someone supportive of GLBT people is pretty slim. Why would we believe that anyone who is GLBT would condemn efforts of groups working together for the good of the community? The simplest indication that something is hate mail, besides grammatical errors, is the lack of signature. No name here, and impossible for an average person to trace.

If your GLBT group has gotten some email or snail mail like this (several reports have come in already), you might want to keep it on file, because email can be traced by professionals. It's illegal for IRS agents to threaten anybody. And it's also very illegal to impersonate a government official and threaten someone, the IRS really hates that. In fact, mailed threats are not legal in any situation.

While you're filing this kind of unpleasant stuff away, take it in stride. In fact, let it stoke your group's efforts. Anti-GLBT people don't send this kind of stuff, unless they're losing.

### ITS OFFICIAL: OUT-OF-STATE MARRIAGES & CUs LEGAL IN NJ

Legal marriages and civil unions of same-sex couples performed in other states and countries will be recognized in New Jersey, the state's attorney general has decided. However, same-sex married couples legally will not be able to refer to themselves as "married" in the Garden State -- their marriages will be considered unions.

## TRISH'S COLUMN<sup>©</sup>

*By Patricia Sullivan*



Lehigh Valley Hospital (LVH) was recognized recently by Fortune Magazine as one of the 100 Best Places To Work. On Fortune's list, LVH ranked 80th. The ranking is based on information and a series of questions, one of the questions is "Do you have a non-discrimination policy that includes sexual orientation?" Of the 100 companies they ranked, 92 indicated they had a nondiscrimination policy that included sexual orientation. One of those 92 companies was Lehigh Valley Hospital.

Go to LVH's website (<http://www.lvh.org/lvh/Careers%7C1183>) and you will see that LVH clearly does not protect its employees on the basis of sexual orientation. It is not clear why LVH was incorrectly credited as having a policy that included sexual orientation in the published article. My calls to LVH's administration were not returned.

The determination of which companies are great places to work is outsourced by Fortune Magazine to the Great Places To Work Institute Inc. The Institute surveys 400 randomly selected employees on a Trust Index and Culture Audit questionnaire. A review of the Great Place To Work's website reveals a significant interest in creating workplaces that strive for non discriminatory policies and support their minority work forces through equitable practices. It is significant that the inclusion of sexual orientation in the businesses' anti discrimination policy is listed in the published article as a specific indicator of a Great Place To Work.

It would not be surprising that LVH should want to present its workplace as nondiscriminatory. However, over the years, we have asked LVH numerous times to add sexual orientation and gender identity to its nondiscrimination policy, but they have refused. The fact that LVH does not have a recruitment problem is no excuse for not providing nondiscrimination protections for all its employees.

Years ago, when Allentown's Mayor Heydt was asked to support the addition of sexual orientation to Allentown's anti discrimination ordinance, he responded, "but the OAPA already supports me". The inference was that at that time the Old Allentown Preservation Association had a large number of gay members who had not communicated to him that they wanted that law, so he believed all gay people in the city were content without it.

In the case of LVH however, there are plenty of employees who feel LVH should change its policy. Changing its policy is certainly the right thing to do, whether a majority of workers push for it or not. We're glad this discrepancy was discovered and we will not complacently stand by while the largest employer in the Lehigh Valley takes national accolades for employment practices they refuse to implement.

LVH should rise to the occasion and change their policy to accurately reflect the information presented in Fortune Magazine. It would be in the spirit of Great Place To Work, Inc. and it would be the right thing to do.

## MCCS ATTITUDE 101

Join MCCLV for a six-part series titled "Attitude 101." The series will help participants focus on the question: Is my attitude spiritual? The course is led by MCCLV Pastor Beth Goudy and will be offered Wednesdays during Lenten Season in the MCCLV Sanctuary at 7pm.

Session 1 -- February 28: From Pride to Humility

Session 2 -- From Greed to Generosity

Session 3 -- From Anger to Forgiveness

Session 4 -- From Lust to Self-Control

Session 5 -- From Sloth to Love

Session 6 -- From Envy to Kindness and from Gluttony to Temperance



# POP QUIZ 12

What GLBT person said: (see list below)

1. "I'm not belittling the brave pioneer men, but the sunbonnet as well as the sombrero has helped to settle this glorious land of ours."
  2. "I'll love you, dear, I'll love you till China and Africa meet and the river jumps over the mountain and the salmon sing in the street."
  3. "Everybody's journey is individual. If you fall in love with a boy, you fall in love with a boy. The fact that many Americans consider it a disease, says more about them, than it does about homosexuality."
  4. "I just wish more of my fellow queers would come out, sometimes. It's nice out here, you know?"
  5. "Remember how they taught you, how much of it was fear. Refuse to hand it down - the legacy stops here."
  6. "All literature is gossip."
  7. "I'm really happy that I was raised Catholic, because its given me years of material."
  8. "Like many fathers, mine could occasionally be prevailed upon for a spot of 'Airplane.'"
  9. "I think it pisses God off if you walk by the color purple in a field somewhere and don't notice it."
  10. "I've been taking a trapeze class for the last couple of years. I'm working on my double back flip."
- A. Neil Patrick Harris B. Truman Capote C. James Baldwin D. Edna Ferber E. Kate Clinton F. Alice Walker G. W.H. Auden H. Melissa Etheridge I. Alison Bechdel J. Elton John

## QUOTE #5

"Barbara Gittings began her career in activism in 1958 when she founded the New York chapter of the Daughters of Bilitis (DOB), the first lesbian organization. - From an obituary for Barbara Gittings

## VALLEY GAY PRESS BOOK REVIEW

"Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic by Alison Bechdel, Houghton Mifflin, \$19.95

Moving story, snort-out-loud humor, fascinating literary tie-ins, confidential honesty and excellent drawings that sweep you along like a flood swollen river.

This amazing autobiographical graphic novel by Alison Bechdel, well known lesbian cartoonist of "Dykes to Watch Out For" fame, is so intensely compelling that you'll have to buy two copies, because you'll want to lend it to friends and they won't want to give it back. Bechdel's "flashback style" recounting of the story of her funeral director/ scholarly literate/ gay father's "accidental" death and moments from her past that unfold as she deciphers their true meanings will appeal to any reader, but will strike a resonant chord with GLBTA people that probably no other novel has ever come close to reaching. Don't miss this one!

We believe it would improve the quality of life in the Lehigh Valley if all people were equally protected from unfair discrimination based upon actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry or place of birth, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, family status, age, disability, or use of a guide animal in the areas of employment, housing, and public accommodation.

PA Diversity Network  
GLBT Infoline  
PA-GALA  
Rainbow Families  
Valley Gay Press  
Allentown Human Relations Commission  
Safe Space of Lehigh University  
PFLAG Lehigh Valley  
ACCO - A Chorus Celebrating Women  
GLORA  
Pride of the GLV  
LV Gay Men's Chorus  
NCC GLBT Student Union  
The Lehigh Valley Labor Party  
EQUAL! at Agere  
Metropolitan Community Church LV  
OutThere - Cedar Crest  
9th Street Shelter Allentown  
LV Community Action Committee  
GLEE at Air Products

FACT  
AIDS Outreach  
The Unitarian Universalist Church LV  
GLOSS  
LEPOCO  
GLUSH of Dun & Bradstreet  
AIDS Services Center  
Theatre Outlet  
Integrity - Bethlehem  
The Lehigh Valley Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Civic Theater  
19th Street Theatre  
The Latin Alliance  
The Enigma Players  
New Covenant Family Ministries  
Properties of Merit

Allentown City Democratic Committee  
Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem  
Puerto Rican Cultural Alliance

Turning Point of the Lehigh Valley  
Muhlenberg Theater Association

Crime Victims Council of the Lehigh Valley  
Touchstone Theater

Congregation Am Hashkalah  
The Lehigh Valley Progressive Students Alliance

The Consistory of St. Peter's UCC - Allentown  
United Friends School Quakertown

LV Transsexual Coalition

To add your organization to this list, Contact VGP

## ART SHOW TO FEATURE LOCAL GLBT ARTISTS!

Gabellini Design Studio & Gallery, 1952 West Allen Street, Allentown. Reception: Saturday, April 28, 6pm-7pm. Free to the general public but donations are welcome! Proceeds benefit PA Diversity Network. Enjoy wine and hors d'oeuvres, while supporting local GLBT community artists! And, view PA Diversity Network's Photo Project-100 Same Sex Couple: Facing Inequality at this show. For more info call 610-439-3610 or email: gabellinidesign@choiceonemail.com.

## CALL FOR FINE ARTISTS

If you are a painter, sculptor, or artist in some other medium and have exhibited in other Fine Arts shows and are a member of PA Diversity Network, and would like to be considered for participation in this show, please contact PA Diversity Network at 610-432-5449 or info@padiversity.org.

## QUOTE #1

"...And it is time to stop supporting politicians who say they support us, and then support 'Separate but Equal' civil unions. ...Democrats should not take the Queer vote for granted - If the Democrats don't start pushing for our civil and constitutional rights to full equality, we do not promise to continue voting for them. Just ask Lisa Boscola how many votes from our community she lost in 2006." - Remarks by speaker Adrian Shanker at MCCLV's Freedom to Marry Rally

## QUOTE #3

"Forty years from now, when students of history learn that there were once laws that barred gay and lesbian couples from marrying, they are going to shake their heads at the injustice of it." - From a Morning Call column by Margie Peterson about The MCC Freedom to Marry Rally at Lehigh Valley Court House

## QUOTE #4

"It should never be up to the majority to decide whether Hispanics, or Gays, or Senior Citizens, or Protestants, or Jews or Catholics or African Americans, or Pennsylvania Dutch should lose or keep their civil rights. - PDN Exec Dir. Liz Bradbury Speaking at MCC's FTMD Rally

Distelfink© 2/07 by Ruby Zebu "More Important Research"

Hotness Meter: 1to10 (10 being hottest)  
email in your vote to: VGP@padiversity.org

Mainstream car commercial with Danica, who tarts up to beat the ticket when she gets pulled over by a motorcycle cop, who turns out to be... a really hot(stern) blonde babe in uniform.



The editorial columns and political cartoon that appear in Valley Gay Press express the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion or attitude of this publication. VGP makes no indication of the sexual orientation of persons, organizations, or businesses mentioned in any issue.